

CONTACT DERMATITIS FROM STREPTOMYCIN

PRELIMINARY REPORT

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Since Pyle and Rattner (1) first described a case of dermatitis caused by penicillin, it has become a well known and definitely established fact that that drug, the first of the antibiotics, was capable of producing epidermal sensitization in a significant number of individuals exposed to it.

The similarity between penicillin and streptomycin should lead to the expectation that the latter drug would also lead to local sensitization. Up until now there has (to our knowledge) been no report of such cases.

We report here four cases of dermatitis of the hands occurring among twelve nurses who were exposed to streptomycin while administering it to patients at the Laurel Heights State Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Shelton, Connecticut. The fact that streptomycin caused this was confirmed by patch tests, carried out with proper controls.

The detailed description of these cases and of the patch testing procedures used will appear in a future publication. This preliminary report is published to call attention to the fact that streptomycin can and does cause epidermal sensitization in man.

REFERENCE

1. PYLE, H. D., AND RATTNER, HERBERT: Contact Dermatitis from Penicillin: J.A.M.A. **125**: 903, (July 9) 1944.

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